statement of President General Musharraf to the effect that the 'Vibes that are now coming do not encourage a process of normalisation of relations with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) Government remain committed to continue with the ongoing process of confidence building, dialogue and cooperation with Pakistan in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence.

Participation in SAARC

1489. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision not to participate in the forthcoming SAARC summit to be hosted by Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inter-University debate conducted by ICWA

1490. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of World Affairs had started annual Inter-University Debate in memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi, Champion of World Peace, to provide students a center for national integration;

(b) if so, since when the debate commenced and continued and the number of Universities that took part during the years 1996 to 2002 by sponsoring students for this conference annually; and

(c) how much amount was spent by Government for organizing this debate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, it is a fact that the Indian Council of World Affairs had organized an annual Inter-University Debate Competition in memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi from 1986 till 1999. No debating competitions were organized from the year 2000 onwards.

217 Universities took part in the years 1996 to 1999. The year-wise break-up of the number of Universities is as under:

Year	Number of Universities, which participated
1996	52
1997	43
1998	52
1999	70

The event was organized solely by the Indian Council of Word Affairs from its own resources. Government of India did not provide any financial assistance for the event.

Renting out of the surplus portion of ICWA premises

1491. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of World Affairs had rented out surplus portion of their building to the Government institutions like Institute of Defence Studies, Children Films Society, etc. and whether prior permission was obtained by the ICWA; and

(b) if so, the year in which these institutions were given premises on rent and whether this allotment was in violation of Government Rules and Regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. It is a fact that the erstwhile management of the Indian Council of World Affairs, a Society, registered under the Registration of Societies Act. XXI of 1860, had rented out a portion of its building to the Institute for Defence Studies, Children Films Society, etc. The present management, which took over the Indian Council of World Affairs on 1st September 2000 by an Ordinance which was later replaced by the ICWA Act, 2001 (No. 29 of 2001), is not aware whether